Pregnancy

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**1.** **Sexual intercourse**

Pregnancy happens when an egg from a woman and a sperm from a man meet together inside a woman's body.

This can happen when a man puts his penis into a woman’s vagina during sexual intercourse (or: “sex”).

**2. Ejaculation**

When a man’s penis is in a woman’s vagina and he “ejaculates”, the penis releases a white fluid called semen.

Semen contains millions of tiny cells called “sperm.”

**3. Fertilisation**

Sperm cells swim up through the cervix, and if an egg is nearby, they burrow into the egg and start the process of creating a baby.

Sperm can survive for up to five days after intercourse. This means that a sperm can fertilise an egg up to seven days after intercourse.

**A picture containing room

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The fertilised egg attaches itself to the soft lining of the uterus. The fertilised egg divides to form a ball of cells called an embryo.

**5. Birth**

After approximately 40 weeks (or nine months) a baby is ready to be born.

Most babies are delivered through the vagina, which stretches to allow the baby to pass through. Sometimes babies may be born by caesarean section where an incision is made in the woman’s abdomen by a doctor and the baby is lifted out.